ISSN: 0975-833X

Available online at http://www.journalcra.com

International Journal of Current Research
Vol. 12, Issue, 05, pp.11671-11673, May, 2020

DOI: https://doi.org/10.24941/ijcr.38718.05.2020

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CURRENT RESEARCH

RESEARCH ARTICLE

KNOWLEDGE AND MISCONCEPTIONS REGARDING SOME SELECTED CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICES AMONG MARRIED WOMEN

***Preeti**

Nursing Tutor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing, Jammu

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:
Received 09th February, 2020
Received in revised form
14th March, 2020
Accepted 28th April, 2020
Published online 31st May, 2020

Key Words:

Married Women ,
Selected Contraceptive Devices (male condom, Cu-T, Oral pills),
Knowledge and Misconceptions,.

ABSTRACT

Introduction: According to the population Reference Bureau, about 17% of all married women in less developed countries would prefer to avoid a pregnancy but are not using a contraceptive method. Country with low pcontraceptive prevalence rates usually has higher unmet need levels for spacing than for limiting births, where as the opposite is usually true in countries with mid and high contraceptive prevalence rates. In general Terms, women in rural areas, women above 30 years of age and women from ethnic minorities have higher levels of unmet needs than women in urban areas and they are more likely to have unmet needs for limiting than for spacing births. **Methodology:** A descriptive study was conducted with an aim to assess knowledge and misconceptions regarding some selected contraceptive devices among married women. Door to door survey was conducted in Panthal district Reasi, J&k. A total of 200 non user married women were selected by door to door survey that fulfilled defined inclusion and exclusion criteria. Questionnaire and checklist used for assessing knowledge and misconceptions of all married women. **Result:** The result revealed that the knowledge had less mean score (10.06) as compared to misconceptions (15.30) Hence it was inferred that women had an average knowledge and little misconceptions regarding selected contraceptive devices and it was found that there was inverse relationship between knowledge and misconceptions. **Discussion:** In the present study, majority (88.88%) were non-users of selected contraceptive devices which was inferred that women had an average knowledge and little misconceptions regarding selected contraceptive devices which leads to negative relationship between knowledge and misconceptions. A part of this, association between knowledge and education, parity and family were revealed significant results where as association between misconceptions with age, education were showed significant results whereas rest of selected variables were non-significant

Citation: ***Preeti.*** **2020.** "Knowledge and misconceptions regarding some selected contraceptive devices among married women.", *International Journal of Current Research*, 12, (05), 11671-11673.

INTRODUCTION

The population explosion is one of the biggest problems facing the country with its in evitable consequences on all aspects of development. The country's population has already reached one billion by the turn of the century (Roy et al., 2001). India was the first country in the world to adopt family planning as an official program in 1952. As a result of various health and family welfare programs over the past fifty years, significant improvement has occurred in various health parameters. There are plenty of methods that are part of family planning such as birth control pills, condoms, IUD, sterilization, etc, although there are not up to the desired or targeted levels owing to some influencing factors related to contraceptives.

****Corresponding author:*** **Preeti,**
Nursing Tutor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing, Jammu.

The factors influencing contraceptive use includes the possible factors on knowledge, belief/ attitude, spousal communication and approval and so on. The contraceptive prevalence rate in less developed countries was estimated to be 55% in 2008 for all methods and 54.8 % for all modern methods .The most frequently used method for spacing births continues to be pill (8%) and IUD (5%). There are different types of IUDs and pills are available and its continuation rate is also high. But unfortunately, the use of IUDs, oral pills and male condom has declined due to certain misconceptions related to ectopic pregnancy and fear regarding infertility. Contraceptive methods are preventive methods which helps the women to avoid unwanted pregnancies. The last few years have witnessed a contraceptive revolution that is, man trying to interfere with the ovulation cycle. It is generally recognized that there can never be an ideal contraceptive that is safe, effective, acceptable, reversible simple to administer, independent of coitus, long lasting enough to obviate frequent administration and requiring little or no medical supervision.

In India, women virtually have no role to play or are allowed to play very limited role in the making of reproductive decisions. There can be a clash of interests here between male and female members of family, particularly given their typically asymmetric role in child care and the outcomes of family decision may therefore not be independent of who governs those decisions.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The methodology of research indicates the general pattern for organizing the procedure for gathering valid and reliable data for an investigation. In this present study a "Quantitative research approach" was used. A descriptive research design was adopted for the present study. The study was conducted in village Panthal district Reasi, J&K. Total 250 samples were chosen by door to door survey out of which 15 samples were not present during data collection and remaining 10 were not willing to participate in study. So target population was 225 in which 25 women were users of contraceptives and rest of the 200 was accessible population in the age group of 18– 45years who were not using selected contraceptive devices under study. A total of 200 non-user women were selected as a sample by purposive sampling technique. Inclusion Criteria - Married women of age group 18- 45 years who were not presently practicing selected contraceptive devices under study. Married women who were willing to participate in the study and who were present on the day of data collection. Both illiterate and literate women were included. The tool was questionnaire for assessing knowledge and checklist to assess misconceptions regarding selected contraceptive devices. The tool was developed after a thorough review of literature. And Content validity of the tool was made and necessary modifications were made according to the expert's opinion and tool was finalized

Ethical approval to conduct the study was obtained from Sarpanch of Panthal village, J&K. Written informed consent was obtained from the study subjects regarding their willingness to participate in the research project. Demographic variables were collected by using interview technique and privacy was provided. Ethical principles were adhered too throughout the study. After selecting the sample, researcher introduced himself and explained the purpose of the study to the married women. The data was analyzed in terms of descriptive statistics i.e. calculating frequency, mean, median, standard deviation and inferential statics by chi square.

Objective 1. To identify married women who are user and non-user of selected contraceptive devices.

Table :-1Percentage distribution of users and non-users of selected contraceptive devices among married women.

	Contraceptive devices	Married women	
		f	%
a)	Users	25	11.11
b)	Non -users	200	88.88

Table-1 Depicted the frequency and percentage distribution of users and non-users of selected contraceptive devices among married women. It revealed that out of 225 married women, majority (88.88%) were non-users where as rest (11.11%) of them were using contraceptives devices.

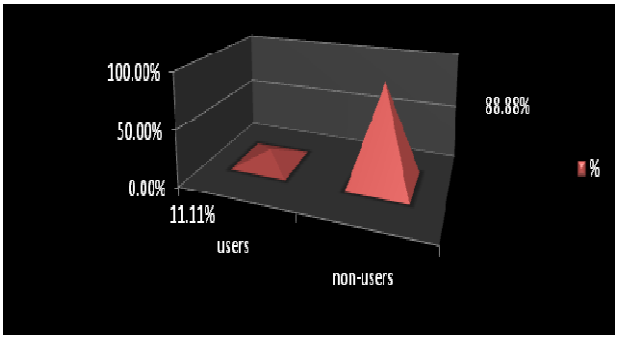

Fig. 2. Percentage distribution of contraceptive users and non-users among married

Table 2 :-Demographic variables were age, educational status, parity, religion, occupation per capita income, type of family, source of information of married women

	Demographic variables		Non-user women
1.	Age (years)	f	%
a)	18-24	46	23
b)	25-31	71	35.5
c)	32-38	72	36
d)	39-45	11	5.5
2.	Educational Status		
a)	Primary	46	23
b)	Secondary	110	55
c)	Graduate & above	22	11
d)	Illiterate	22	11
3.	Parity		
a)	Primary	56	28
b)	Secondary	91	45.5
c)	Multipara	41	20.5
d)	Nullipara	12	6
4.	Religion		
a)	Hindu	179	89.5
b)	Sikh	5	2.5
c)	Muslim	15	7.5
d)	Christen	01	0.5
5.	Occupation		
a)	Housewife	191	95.5
b)	Private job	05	2.5
c)	Govt. job	03	1.3
d)	Other	01	0.5
6.	Per –capita Income		
a)	Rs. $\leq$ 1000	38	19
b)	Rs.1001 – 2000	35	17.05
c)	Rs.2001 – 3000	85	42.05
d)	Rs. $\geq$ 3001	42	21
7.	Family		
a.	Nuclear	109	54.5
b.	Joint	87	43.5
c.	Extended	04	2
8.	Source of information		
a)	Television	127	63.5
b)	Radio	05	2.5
c)	Newspaper	09	4.5
d)	Resource person	56	28
e)	Other	03	1.5

Table :-3 Determine the relationship between knowledge and misconception regarding selected contraceptive devices.

N=200

	Score	Mean	SD	r
1.	Knowledge	10.06	2.140	-0.215*
2.	Misconceptions	15.30	4.360	

Hence, it was evident from tabulated data that there was higher number of non-users of selected contraceptive devices among married women. Table-3 revealed that relationship between knowledge and misconception regarding contraceptive devices among non- user married women.

It has shown that knowledge had less mean score (10.06) as compared to misconceptions (15.30).

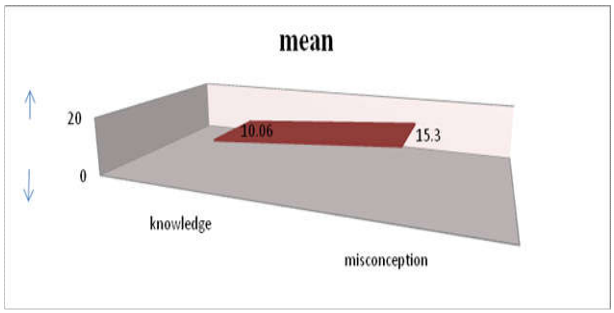

Fig. 2. Relationship between knowledge and misconceptions among non user married women regarding selected contraceptive devices

Further correlation coefficient was applied and it was found that there was inverse relationship between knowledge and misconceptions. Hence it was inferred that women had an average knowledge and little misconceptions regarding selected contraceptive devices. Hence it was inferred that women had an average knowledge and little misconceptions regarding selected contraceptive devices

DISCUSSION

Identification of user and non user of selected contraceptive devices among married women: The frequency and percentage distribution of users and non-users of selected contraceptive devices among married women revealed that out of 225 married women, majority (88.88%) were non-users where as rest (11.11%) of them were using contraceptives devices.

Sample Characteristics: Majority of non-user married women's surveyed i.e. 43.5% reported that they belonged to the age group of 25-31, more than half (53.5%) of subjects come under secondary education, Hindu religion (89.5%) and joint family (54.0%) whereas rest was less than 50%. House wives depicted a higher percentage (95.5%) among other variables.

Determine the relationship between knowledge and misconception regarding selected contraceptive devices: Relationship between knowledge and misconception regarding contraceptive devices among non- users married women which showed that knowledge had less mean score (10.06) as compared to misconceptions (15.30). It was found that there was inverse relationship between knowledge and misconceptions. Hence it was inferred that women had average knowledge and little misconceptions regarding selected contraceptive devices.

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